

5. *Just before* 53

November 27th, 1959

COCOM Document No. 3715.72/1B

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

ITEM 1572 - MAGNETIC RECORDERS

5th and 17th November, 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM 3700.2, 3715.00/1 and W.P.1572/1.

1. The GERMAN Delegation proposed an amendment as shown below in the exclusion clause of Item 1572:

"Magnetic recorders and/or reproducers (other than those designed for voice, music or pictures); and ... etc."

The German Delegation considered that recorders designed for pictures ought not to be covered by the definition of this item.

2. The UNITED STATES Delegation opposed the German proposal. They pointed out that the United States was the only country in which recorders designed for pictures were produced on a commercial scale, that there was a wide field of military applications for this recording technique and the corresponding equipment, and that technical data of considerable strategic significance could be extracted from this method. The Delegate added that the wide-band recording system was fully developed in the United States. He pointed out that the Soviet Bloc appeared not to have developed similar equipment as yet.

3. The FRENCH Delegation proposed as a compromise that the expression "with a mobile head" should be inserted in the present definition (military applications of this equipment requiring a fixed head).

4. The UNITED STATES Delegate considered that this proposal involved a risk. He stated that while in certain cases (for example, telemeters) it would be necessary to make radical changes in these instruments in order to use them for military purposes, in other cases (radar signals, electronic countermeasures) the recorders could be used directly to strategic ends.

5. Following the explanation given by the United States Delegation and afterwards submitted in a separate memorandum, the GERMAN Delegation agreed to withdraw their proposal to redefine Item 1572. They reserved the right, however, to bring forward the item again at the time of the 1960 review if difficulties arose in the meantime.

6. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegation stated that in their view the present definition seemed unsatisfactory. They would have preferred a more precise definition which would exclude recorders normally used in connection with computers not embargoed under Item 1565.

7. The COMMITTEE thereupon instructed the Working Group to draw up a new definition. The Working Group was unable however to reach an acceptable solution in the short time at their disposal and the Committee agreed to examine Item 1572 again during the second round of the review.

CONCLUSION: The COMMITTEE, noting that they were unable to reach agreement on Item 1572, agreed to resume its study during the second round of the review.